(d) and (e) The Government of Kerala has so far submitted 26 projects amounting to Rs.364.90 crores under Kuttanad package. The Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India has sanctioned one project on "Measures for augmenting biodiversity in the backwaters (Vembanad Wetland)" and has already released an amount of Rs.15.75 lakhs to the State Government. Other projects require some modification/rectification and the State Government of Kerala has already been advised to effectively coordinate and interact with the concerned Ministries/Departments of Government of India for sorting out the issues coming in way of sanction of projects.

(f) M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation in its report has not made any observation or recommendations on the guidelines of Central Schemes. Therefore, this question does not arise.

Production under Rabi, Kharif crop during 2008-09

†136. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the area that was under cultivation of mustard, groundnut, soyabean and palm oil in Rabi and Kharif during the year 2008-09 and quantum of production thereof;

(b) to what extent it was more or less in comparison to last three years;

(c) the reasons for the same;

(d) whether it is a fact that there has been a huge import of edible oils during the last three years;

(e) if so, item-wise details thereof; and

(f) whether it is also a fact that due to corruption in obtaining support price of oilseeds and non-payment of arrears to the farmers, this situation has arisen?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (c) The area and production of Rapeseed and Mustard, Groundnut, Soyabean and total Oilseeds for Rabi and Kharif for the years 2005-06 to 2008-09 are given in the following tables:

Area:

(Lakh Hectares)

Year	Rapeseed and Mustard	Groundnut		Soyabean	Total Oilseeds	
	Rabi	Kharif	Rabi	Kharif	Kharif	Rabi
2005-06	72.77	57.40	9.96	77.08	173.68	104.94
2006-07	67.90	47.80	8.35	83.29	167.70	97.43
2007-08	58.26	53.12	9.80	88.82	179.49	87.43
2008-09*	63.32	52.34	10.16	95.17	185.38	91.53

*3rd Advance Estimates

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Production:

(Lakh Tonnes)

Year	Rapeseed and Mustard	Groundnut		Soyabean	Total Oilseeds	
	Rabi	Kharif	Rabi	Kharif	Kharif	Rabi
2005-06	81.31	62.98	26.95	82.74	167.68	112.11
2006-07	74.38	32.94	15.69	88.51	140.12	102.77
2007-08	58.34	73.62	18.20	109.68	207.13	90.42
2008-09*	73.15	57.12	15.95	101.53	181.70	99.57

*3rd Advance Estimates

The area and production of above oilseeds during 2005-06 onwards have shown fluctuating trends. The data on area under cultivation and production of Palm oil are not regularly monitored by the Ministry of Agriculture.

(d) and (e) The domestic availability of edible oils falls short due to lower production of oilseeds and the demand of edible oils has been increasing at a pace faster than the production due to growth in population and improvement in living standards. The demand supply gap in edible oils is filled through imports. As per the reports from the Office of Director General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCI&S), Ministry of Commerce, the year-wise details of Import of Edible Oils in terms of quantity and value from the year 2005-06 onwards are given in the table below:-

Year	Import of Edible Oils	
	Quantity ('000 Tonnes)	Value (Rs. Crore)
2005-06	4288.10	8960.99
2006-07	4269.38	9539.90
2007-08@	4902.81	10298.68
2008-09*	5608.62	12917.20

@Provisional

*Upto January 2009

(f) During Kharif 2008 and Rabi 2009 Season, the prices of major oilseeds like Soyabean and Mustard prevailed well above the Minimum Support Price (MSP) level. As such, the need for commencing procurement of these oilseeds under Price Support Scheme (PSS) did not arise. However, the prices of sunflower seed were ruling below the MSP level in some States like Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Haryana and Punjab. NAFED immediately intervened

in the market and commenced purchases under PSS to provide benefit of the scheme to the farmers. NAFED is also undertaking procurement of Copra under PSS in the States of Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka and Lakshdweep Islands.

NAFED being the central nodal agency for implementation of PSS with respect to Oilseeds and Pulses, remains in full preparedness for implementation of the Scheme and intervenes in the market as and when required. A close monitoring of prices of commodities prevailing in different States is done on regular basis for this purpose. At the time of undertaking purchases, timely payment is released to the farmers and there have been no complaints in this regard. Best efforts are made by NAFED to ensure that the benefits of the scheme are passed on to the maximum number of farmers and the procurement operations are carried out as efficiently and smoothly as possible.

Plant protection strategy

137. SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the plant protection strategy and activities;

(b) what are the arrangements in place for the purpose; and

(c) the steps being taken to make the farmers aware of the need for plant protection and what are the facilities available for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (c) Government has launched a scheme titled "Strengthening and Modernization of Pest Management Approach in India" since 1991-92 adopting Integrated Pest Management (IPM) as main plank of plant protection strategy in overall crop production programme.

The Government has established 31 Central Integrated Pest Management Centres in 28 States and one Union Territory (UT). The mandate of these Centres is pest/disease monitoring, production and release of bio-control agents/bio-pesticides, conservation of bio-control agents and imparting training to Agriculture/Horticulture Extension Officers and farmers at grass root level by organizing Farmers Field Schools (FFSs). Basic aim of FFSs is to train the farmers on the latest IPM technology so that they are able to take decisions in pest management operation. Under the scheme 12,111 FFSs have been organized wherein 50,716 farmers in different States/UTs have been trained. Also IPM package of practices for pest/disease management have been developed for 77 major crops in collaboration with State Departments of Agriculture/Horticulture/ICAR Institutions/State Agriculture Universities which have been circulated to all States/UTs and are available at the website *www.dacnet.nic.in/ppin* for use by the extension functionaries and farmers.